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TREATMENT OF CHRONIC URINARY SALMONELLA
CARRIERS: 3-5 YEARS FOLLOW-UP

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Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3

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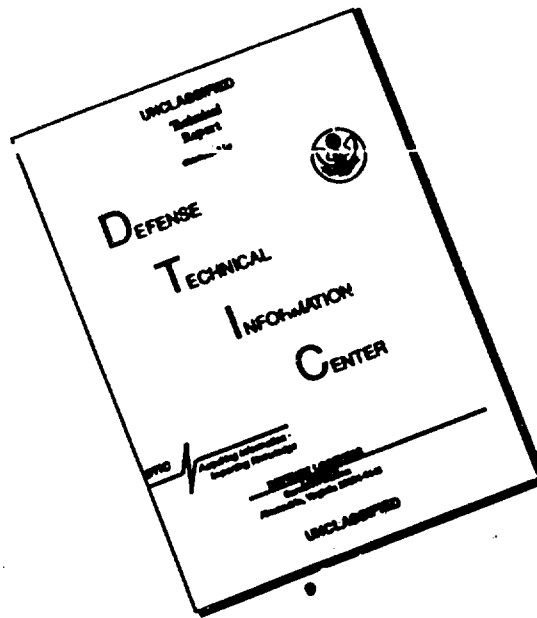
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TREATMENT OF CHRONIC URINARY *SALMONELLA* CARRIERS: 3-5 YEARS FOLLOW-UP

SIR,—We have previously reported (BASSILY et al., 1970) the results of treating 14 patients who were excreting *Salmonella typhi* (4) or *S. paratyphi A* (10) in their urine for more than 12 months. All patients had obstructive urinary tract lesions secondary to schistosomiasis, and all were treated with combined antischistosomal (niridazole in 8 patients and potassium antimony tartrate in 6) and antibiotic therapy (4 weeks of ampicillin). 9 of the 14 patients had repeatedly negative urine cultures, 6-12 months after therapy. The remaining 5 patients relapsed; 3 were adults who proved to have irreparably damaged urinary tracts and the other 2 were young patients who had vesico-ureteric reflux.

In order to determine the cure rate, all the patients were followed for more than 3 years (Table). 8 of the 9 patients who had negative urine cultures 6-12 months after therapy continued to have negative cultures and were considered cured. The 9th patient (No. 3) was considered re-infected and not relapsed, since he had different salmonella organisms repeatedly cultured from his urine during the follow-up evaluation.

TABLE. Results of combined antischistosomal and ampicillin treatment over 3 years follow-up.

Patient No.	Age years	Organisms cultured from blood and urine	Follow-up culture results 6-12 months after treatment	Follow-up culture results 3-5 years after treatment
1	15	<i>S. typhi</i>	<i>S. typhi</i>	<i>S. typhi</i>
2	14	<i>S. typhi</i>	Negative	Negative
3	13	<i>S. typhi</i>	Negative	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>
4	14	<i>S. typhi</i>	Negative	Negative
5	29	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>
6	22	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>
7	13	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative*
8	20	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>
9	18	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative	Negative
10	11	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative	Negative
11	13	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative	Negative
12	30	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative	Negative
13	8	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative	Negative
14	20	<i>S. paratyphi A</i>	Negative	Negative

*Vesico-ureteric reflux disappeared following niridazole therapy and culture remained negative for 4 years.

4 of the 5 patients who had relapsed 3 years ago continued to pass the same salmonella organisms in the urine. They were started on prolonged suppressive therapy with trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole (2 tablets daily) which proved to be effective in treating the salmonella carrier state (BASSILY et al. in press; BRODIE et al., 1970) and has been used for suppressive treatment of chronic *E. coli* infection of the urinary tract (CATTELL et al., 1971). Suppressive therapy proved to be effective and to date urine cultures remain negative. The 5th young patient who previously had a vesico-ureteric reflux showed disappearance of reflux following niridazole therapy and his urine cultures became negative. Thus 10 out of 14 patients treated with combined antischistosomal and antibiotic therapy were cured.

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